

Traces of Jewish life in Ioannina, Greece

Ioannina is located within the Pindus mountain range in the north-west of Greece. This mountain range is a spectacular region especially because of its impressive gorges, of which the Vikos Gorge is amongst the most magnificent ones within Europe. Its depth, which is ranging between 450m and 1600 metres, has earned it an entry into the Guinness Book of Records. Small picturesque villages with stone houses invite the visitors to spend some relaxing time there. Most of these villages are connected by foot paths, stone staircases and bridges which are still frequently used and admired by climbers and visitors to this region. These villages can be considered part of the cultural heritage of this part of Greece. In October 2015 the third instalment of the "Mobilität" as part of the Erasmus+ Project took place in this magnificent environment.



MONDAY, 12.10.2015

The first day was focussing on working in groups which included students from each participating country. In order to find an introduction to the Erasmus+ project's topic Local traces of Jewish life in Europe the members of the different nations were trying to come up with ways of how to present the Jewish history by researching school-books, the respective school curricula and attitudes of society.

Afterwards the groups were invited to admire some Greek traditional dances, like the Sirtaki, and to listen to a concert performed by students, which impressed the audience immensely.

The guests were then treated to regional culinary specialties buffet-style, which had been prepared by the parents of the participating Greek students.

The last item on the first day's agenda was tackling the main topic Jewish history in the media, school curricula and schoolbooks in small groups. One of those groups focused, for instance, on the way how Judaism is taught in religious education classes in the students' respective home countries. By checking RE schoolbooks and comparing them amongst each other, the group members accomplished their task and found out that the extent to which Jewish life is portrayed in those books varies from country to country dramatically. At the end of the first day the groups presented their results to each other.



TUESDAY, 13.10.2015



Ioannina is a very lively city and is known as big centre of culture in the North of Greece. The city centre is characterized by narrow streets and many old buildings dating back to Ottoman times. Quite remarkable is the little Island Nisi Ioanninon amidst lake Pamvotida with its important monuments and sights. On a city trip through the historic city of Ioannina and the former Jewish quarter the participants could get to know more about the cultural diversity and the moving history of the city and region as well as the Jewish community.

